

# Diversity Matters

Citizens' Unity Commission

Published Quarterly to Inform the Community ■ April—June 2012

## 2012 International Children's Festival



A FANTASTIC **FREE** EVENT FOR ALL AGES!

# international children's festival

**Saturday, April 21, 2012**  
**Mill Point Park ■ 10am-5pm**  
[ Downtown Hampton ]

**Experience the SIGHTS, SOUNDS & TASTES of over 35 countries!**

What began twelve years ago as an international festival for children has blossomed into an event for the young and young-at-heart.

Live performances, ethnic foods and expo booths  
feature something for everyone.

PRESENTING  
SPONSOR:



FOR MORE INFORMATION:  
[www.hampton.gov/parks](http://www.hampton.gov/parks)  
727-8311



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**"No culture can live if it attempts to be exclusive."**

*Mahatma Gandhi*

### Opening the Book on Diversity Book Group

Meets every 2nd Tuesday  
of the month at the  
Main Branch of the  
Hampton Public Library  
@ 7:00 p.m.

**April** - *The Sisterhood of Blackberry Corner* by  
Andrea Smith

**May** - *The Story of a Beautiful Girl* by Rachel  
Simon

**June** - *Lyric's Alley* by Leila  
Aboulela

## Hampton Pledge

I believe that every person has infinite worth as an individual.

I believe that every person is entitled to dignity and respect, regardless of race, color, religion, age, disability, ethnicity, sexual orientation or gender identity.

I believe that every thought and every act of any type of prejudice is harmful to me as well as others.

Therefore, from this day forward, I will strive to eliminate all types of prejudice from my thoughts and actions.

I will strive to eliminate all types of prejudice by others at every opportunity.

I will treat all people with dignity and respect; and I will strive to honor this pledge, knowing that Hampton and the world will be better because of my effort.



*The Hampton Pledge*

## 2012 Unity Awards

We are currently accepting applications for the 2012 Unity Awards. This award was established in 2000 to recognize the contributions of individuals, organizations and initiatives that have made a positive impact on supporting the importance of diversity in the city of Hampton. Visit our website at [www.hampton.gov/unity](http://www.hampton.gov/unity) and complete an application. Deadline for applications is **April 11, 2012**. If you have any questions call 728-3279.

## Hampton Diversity Leadership Academy

We are now accepting applications for the Hampton Diversity Leadership Academy on Disability Awareness. This is a 3-week course focusing on disability topics such as:

- Accessibility issues
- Disability as a civil rights issue
- Communicating with people with disabilities
- Disability etiquette

**Join us May 15-29, 5:30-8 p.m. at Hampton City Hall, 22 Lincoln St., 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Community Development Conference Room**

Sign up and come join us for this interactive and educational course on disability awareness. For more information, check out our website at [www.hampton.gov/unity](http://www.hampton.gov/unity).

# Diversity Calendar

## ■ APRIL

**Celebrate Diversity Month** - The creators of the Honoring Differences calendar first saw the need to set aside a full month to honor the diversity surrounding us in 2004. We hope that organizations, schools, and individuals will choose to celebrate similarities as well as differences during this time, thereby gaining a deeper understanding of each other. One way to build connections with those we don't usually get the opportunity to know is to explore the cultural celebrations and significant life event of others, which this calendar helps you to do. Through these connections, we create the energy needed to positively change our workplaces and communities.

**1<sup>st</sup> Palm Sunday**—Christian, Coptic & Eastern Orthodox Christian: Commemorates the day Jesus Christ was given a king's entry into Jerusalem, marked by the strewing of palm leaves before him.

**Ramanavami**—Hindu: Celebrates the birth of Shri Rama, one of the incarnates of the Hindu god Vishnu.

**6<sup>th</sup> Good Friday** - Christian, Coptic & Eastern Orthodox Christian: Culminates the Lenten season and commemorates the crucifixion of Jesus Christ.

**7<sup>th</sup> Pesach (Passover)**—Jewish: An 8-day festival marking the liberation of the Israelites from bondage in Egypt.

**8<sup>th</sup> Buddha's Birthday**—Buddhist: Celebrates the founder of Buddhism, Siddhartha Gautama.

**Easter**—Christian, Coptic & Eastern Orthodox Christian: Celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

**13<sup>th</sup> Vaisakhi**—Hindu, Jain & Sikh: Marks the first day of the Hindu New Year, celebrated in several countries and Indian states.

**1<sup>st</sup> Yon Ha-Shoah (Holocaust Day)** – Jewish: A day to memorialize Jews killed in concentration camps during WWII.

**21<sup>st</sup> Festival of Ridvan**—Baha'i: A 12-day celebration commemorating Baha'u'llah's stay in the Garden of Ridvan.

**23<sup>rd</sup> St. George's Day** - Christian: A day to honor the patron of saint of England, who died on this day in 303 CE.

**30<sup>th</sup> Beltane**—Celtic, Pagan: Beltane divided the ancient Celtic year in half. Fires were often lit to symbolize contact with the life-giving sun.

## ■ MAY

**Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month** - Generations of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have strengthened the U.S. as a nation. The terminology encompasses many ethnic groups that worked tirelessly to build a national railroad infrastructure, paving the way for western expansion. The first Asian/Pacific Heritage Week was celebrated in 1979, in response to little or no recognition of this population in 1976 bicentennial celebrations. By 1990, the celebration was one month long and then made official in 1992.

**5<sup>th</sup> Vesak**—Buddhist: Theravada Buddhist celebration of the birth, enlightenment, and death of the Buddha.

**23<sup>rd</sup> Declaration of the Bab**—Baha'i: Commemorates when the Bab, the prophet-herald of the Baha'i faith, revealed that he was the herald of a greater messenger of God.

**27<sup>th</sup> Pentecost**—Christian, Coptic and Eastern Orthodox Christian: Commemorates the Holy Spirit's descent upon the 12 Apostles.

**Shavuot (Festival of Weeks)** – Jewish: A two-day commemoration of the revelation of the 10 Commandments to Moses on Mt. Sinai.

**29<sup>th</sup> Ascension of Baha'u'llah**—Baha'i Commemorates the 1892 death of the prophet-founder of the Baha'i faith.

## ■ JUNE

**Gay & Lesbian Pride Month** - Until recently, Pride Days for individuals who are gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender (GLBT) were celebrated at many different times all over the U.S. The most significant date in GLBT history occurring in June was the three-day protest in 1969 at Stonewall Inn in New York City, an event that marked the first time that the gay community joined together to fight for its rights, thereby gaining national attention. The anniversary of this event was one of the reasons June was chosen as the nationally proclaimed month to celebrate LGBT Pride.

**7<sup>th</sup> Corpus Christi** – Christian (Catholic): A festival in honor of the Eucharist, observed on the Thursday after Trinity Sunday since 1246.

**10<sup>th</sup> Race Unity Day**—Baha'i: Promotes racial harmony and understanding.

**16<sup>th</sup> Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev** - Sikh: Commemorates the death of the fifth guru of the Sikhs and the first Sikh martyr.

**16<sup>th</sup> Shab-e-Miraj** – Islamic: Commemorates the ascent of Muhammad, holy prophet of Islam, to heaven.

**20<sup>th</sup> Litha** - Celtic, Pagan: Litha occurs on this day in the Northern Hemisphere; in the Southern Hemisphere, today is Yule.

**23<sup>rd</sup> St. John's Eve**—Christian, International: Marks the celebration of the summer solstice and the feast of St. John.

**24<sup>th</sup> Feast of St. John the Baptist**—Christian, International, A celebration of the birth of the precursor and baptizer of Jesus the Messiah.



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## Upcoming Events

### ★ APRIL

- 12**  
CUC General Monthly Meeting
- 10**  
CUC *Opening the Book on Diversity* Hampton Public Library @ 7:00 p.m.
- 21**  
International Children's Festival – Mill Point Park 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
- 24**  
Ad Hoc Leadership Group meeting 6:30-8:30 p.m.

### ★ MAY

- 15-29**  
HDLA VII – (Disability Awareness)
- 8**  
Hampton Public Library: CUC *Opening the Book on Diversity* Book Discussion Group @ 7:00 p.m.
- 10**  
2012 Unity Awards Reception
- 22**  
Ad Hoc Leadership Group meeting 6:30-8:30 p.m.

### ★ JUNE

- 12**  
Hampton Public Library: CUC *Opening the Book on Diversity* Book Discussion Group @ 7:00 p.m.
- 14**  
CUC General Monthly Meeting
- 12 & 19**  
HDLA VII – (Generations)
- 26**  
Ad Hoc Leadership Group meeting 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

For more details on upcoming events, call or email us!

# Feedback

## Let us know what you think!

Questions? Comments.  
Suggestions!

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